

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An implantable tissue-stimulating device comprising:

a resiliently flexible elongate member having ~~a proximal end, a distal end, and having~~ at least one electrode mounted thereon;

a stiffening element;

a lumen extending through at least a portion of said elongate member from an ~~orifice~~ positioned ~~at or relatively closer to said proximal end than said distal end,~~ orifice in said elongate member, said lumen ~~configured being able to receive a~~ to receive said stiffening element through said orifice; and

a seal disposed in said lumen and configured to be pierced by said stiffening element, and that is pierceable by said stiffening element, said seal configured to substantially sealing said seal ~~said lumen following removal of said stiffening element therefrom.~~ from said lumen.

2. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of claim 1, wherein said stiffening element ~~extending~~ is configured to extend through at least a portion of said lumen and out through said orifice.

3. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of ~~claim 1~~ claim 1, wherein a ~~slit is formed in~~ said seal comprises a slit.

4. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of ~~claim 1~~ claim 1, wherein said seal is formed of a silicone polymer.

Claims 5-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) An implantable tissue-stimulating device comprising:

a resiliently flexible elongate member having ~~a proximal end, a distal end, and having~~ at least one electrode mounted thereon;

a lumen extending through at least a portion of said elongate member from an orifice in said elongate member; ~~orifice positioned at or relatively closer to said proximal end than said distal end~~;

a stiffening element ~~positioned~~ at least partially positioned within said lumen and extending out of said lumen through said orifice at least during implantation of the tissue-stimulating device; and

a sealing member ~~mountable to~~ mounted to, and moveable with, a section of said stiffening element within said lumen;

wherein said stiffening element is movable relative to said orifice of said lumen between a first position in which said sealing member ~~mountable thereon~~ does not seal said lumen and a second position in which said sealing member substantially seals said lumen.

13. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of ~~claim 12~~ claim 12, wherein said sealing member comprises a ~~sealing portion of a~~ resiliently flexible material mounted to said stiffening element.

14. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of ~~claim 12~~ claim 12, wherein said sealing member has a shape that substantially matches ~~the~~ a shape of a narrowing of the lumen at or adjacent said ~~orifice thereof~~ said orifice.

15. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of ~~claim 12~~ claim 12, wherein said sealing member comprises a substantially spherical shape or spherical member mounted at or relatively near ~~said distal end~~ a distal end of said stiffening member.

16. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of ~~claim 15~~ claim 15, wherein a portion of said lumen adjacent said orifice ~~thereof~~ has a spherical region to receive said spherical member when said spherical member is in ~~[[a]]~~ said second position.

17. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of ~~claim 16~~ claim 16, wherein said spherical region has a diameter less than that of said spherical member.

Claims 18-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~implantable tissue-stimulating device of claim 12, further comprising:~~ An implantable tissue-stimulating device comprising:
a resiliently flexible elongate member having at least one electrode mounted thereon;
a lumen extending through at least a portion of said elongate member from an orifice; and
a compression member mountable around at least a portion of said elongate member;
wherein said compression member is adjustable between a first configuration in which said compression member does not compress any portion ~~a portion~~ of said lumen and a second configuration in which said compression member compresses ~~does compress~~ at least a first portion of said lumen to substantially seal said lumen.

21. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of ~~claim 20~~ claim 20, further comprising a stiffening element at least partially positioned within said lumen and extending out of said lumen through said orifice at least during implantation of the tissue-stimulating device, wherein said lumen ~~is able~~ is configured to receive said stiffening element through said orifice ~~thereof~~.

22. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of ~~claim 20~~ claim 20, wherein a position of said compression member around said elongate member is adjustable.

23. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of ~~claim 22~~ claim 22, wherein said ~~position of said compression~~ compression member is adjustable only once from a ~~first~~ said first configuration to ~~[[a]]~~ said second configuration.

24. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of ~~claim 20~~ claim 20, wherein said compression member is a clip that is mountable around said elongate member, and wherein on closing and latching of said clip, at least ~~a portion~~ the first portion of said lumen is compressed sufficiently to at least substantially seal said lumen.

25. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device ~~comprising of claim 1 of~~ claim 20,

wherein said lumen comprises a second portion,

~~wherein said lumen has a~~ said first portion of said lumen has ~~having~~ a first diameter and ~~at least one~~ said second portion of said lumen has ~~having~~ a second diameter greater than ~~less than~~ ~~that of~~ said first diameter; and

~~wherein said~~ first ~~second~~ portion is relatively closer to said orifice of said lumen than said ~~first portion~~ second portion.

26. (Currently Amended) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of ~~claim 25~~ claim 25, wherein said lumen comprises a third portion having a third diameter greater than the first diameter, and ~~said~~ first ~~second~~ portion is spaced from said orifice of said lumen by ~~at least one~~ first said third portion.

Claims 27-33. (Cancelled)

34. (New) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of claim 12, wherein the sealing member is configured to be disengaged from the stiffening element during withdrawal of the stiffening element from said lumen.

35. (New) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of claim 12, wherein the sealing member is integral with the stiffening element.

36. (New) The implantable tissue-stimulating device of claim 14, wherein the sealing member has a frusto-conical shape, and the narrowing of the lumen has a taper that substantially matches the frusto-conical shape of the sealing member.

37. (New) A method of placing an implantable tissue-stimulating device in a body of an implantee, the device comprising a resiliently flexible elongate member having at least one electrode mounted thereon, a lumen extending through at least a portion of the elongate member from an orifice, a stiffening element at least partially positioned within the lumen and extending out of the lumen through the orifice at least during implantation of the tissue-stimulating device, and a sealing member mounted to, and moveable with, a section of the stiffening element within said lumen, the method comprising:

- inserting the elongate member into a desired location in the body of the implantee; and
- at least one of during and after insertion of the elongate member, moving the stiffening element from a first position in which the sealing member does not seal the lumen to a second position in which the sealing member substantially seals the lumen.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, after moving the stiffening element to the second position, the method further comprises:

- disengaging the stiffening element from the sealing member.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein disengaging the stiffening element from the sealing member comprises:

- withdrawing the stiffening member from the lumen.

40. (New) The method of claim 37, after moving the stiffening element to the second position, the method further comprises:

- severing the stiffening member adjacent to the orifice.

41. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the lumen comprises a narrow region, and wherein moving the stiffening element to the second position comprises:

moving the stiffening element so that the sealing member moves into the narrow region of the lumen, wherein the sealing member has a shape that substantially matches a shape of the narrow region.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the sealing member has a frusto-conical shape, and the narrow region of the lumen has a taper that substantially matches the frusto-conical shape of the sealing member, and wherein the method further comprises:

moving the stiffening elements so that the frusto-conical shaped member mates with the frusto-conical shaped narrow region.

43. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the sealing member comprises a spherical member disposed at a distal end of the stiffening member, and wherein the narrowing of the lumen comprises a spherical region configured to receive the spherical member, and wherein the method further comprises:

moving the stiffening elements so that the spherical region mates with the spherical member.